(c) if so, the steps Government plan to take to restore the original beauty of 'paradise on earth'?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Dal-Nagin lakes have been shrinking in area due to various reasons like siltation, increased urbanisation and polluted inflow from peripheral areas. Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 102.45 crore has been provided till date by the Planning Commission to the J&K Government for conservation of the lake, out of which the State Government has spent Rs. 89.38 crore on various activities relating to dredging, deweeding, catchment area treatment solid waste management, sewerage system and sewage pumping stations, improvement of lake hydrology and hydraulics, lake eco-regeneration, rehabilitation of families acquisition of land and structures inside the lake etc. A project proposal amounting to Rs. 269.45 crore has also been prepared for conservation of the Dal-Nagin lakes.

Losses in Forests Plantation Development Corporation Ltd.

1137. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., the PSU under his Ministry is consistently running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for losses of the Corporation; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to remove the bottlenecks and revive this Corporation on priority?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. was established on 21 January, 1977. It was in profit upto 1997-98 and during 1999-2000. It has run in losses during 1998-99, 2000-01 and thereafter.

(b) The figures of profit/loss for last ten years are as under:

Financial Year	Profit (+)/loss (-) Rs. in Lakh)
1993-94	(+)280.7
1994-95	(+)358.96
1995-96	(+)326.18
1996-97	(+)293.88
1997-98	(+)104.19
1998-99	(-)56.04
1999-00	(+)16.78
2000-01	(-)259.27
2001-02	(-)504.28
2002-03	(-)639.46

The main reasons for losses are as under:

(i) Economically unviable Rubber Project,

(ii) Reduction in the quantum of harvest of timber, and

(iii) Restrictions imposed by the Supreme Court of India.

(c) The Government have initiated the process of preparation of a proposal for the revival of the Corporation.

Dumping of toxic material at Alang on Gujarat coast

1138. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is seized of the growing environmental hazard caused by dumping of toxic material during ship-breaking at Alang on Gujarat coast;

(b) whether a scrapped Norwegian LPG tanker recently berthed at Alang with hazardous waste in violation of Basel Convention regulation; and